

Appl. No. : 09/463,146
Filed : April 14, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18: canceled

19. (currently amended) A method of distributing information to users in a cellular telecommunications network comprising a plurality of base stations transceiving in a plurality of cells of the network, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of mobile stations, wherein each said mobile station is provided with a removable module which is capable of being used in association with any of a plurality of said mobile stations, each of the mobile stations having an associated information access status for the receipt of messages broadcast on a common channel of at least one cell of said network;

enabling first mobile stations having a first information access status to decrypt and present the message to a user in unencrypted form, by providing each removable module of each of said first mobile stations with a decryption function arranged to use a decryption key ~~common to each of said first mobile stations~~;

preventing second mobile stations having a second information access status from presenting the message in unencrypted form to a user when being served in the cell;

broadcasting a signal on a common channel of at least one cell of the network, the signal containing a limited access message in encrypted form, for general reception in the at least one cell and for limited access by users of said first mobile stations;

transmitting a transfer protocol identifier indicating that the encrypted broadcast message is of a type for data download to the removable module from the first mobile station;

for each said first mobile station, passing said encrypted broadcast message to its corresponding removable module in response to receipt of said transfer protocol identifier;

for each said removable module of each of said first mobile stations, decrypting said encrypted broadcast message using said ~~common~~ decryption key in response to receipt of said encrypted broadcast message; and

for each said removable module, passing said decrypted broadcast message to its corresponding first mobile station for display thereon.

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20. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 19, further comprising enabling both the first and second mobile stations to read a message identifier comprised in the signal and accompanying a message.

21. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 19, further comprising storing the ~~common~~-decryption key in the removable module in encrypted form.

22. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, further comprising decrypting the ~~common~~-decryption key by the first mobile station using a data string specific to the removable module.

23. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the data string is a subscriber identifier used in the cellular telecommunications network.

24. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 19, further comprising transmitting the ~~common~~-decryption key to the first mobile stations via a radio interface in the cellular telecommunications network.

25. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the removable module is a subscriber identity module.

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 19, further comprising storing in the removable module an application program for performing the decryption and for controlling a display of the message on the mobile station.

28. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the signal comprises a plurality of limited access messages each having a corresponding ~~common~~ decryption key,

the method comprising providing the first mobile stations with the ~~common~~ decryption keys, storing the ~~common~~-decryption keys on removable modules of the first mobile stations, and enabling only ones of the first mobile stations having a ~~common~~ decryption key corresponding to a limited access message to present the limited access message to a user in unencrypted form when being served in said cell.

29. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 28, further comprising providing each of the first mobile stations with a selection of the ~~common~~-decryption keys in accordance with a subscription held for each first mobile station respectively.

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30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein alternative limited access messages are broadcast in cells located in different areas of the cellular telecommunications network.

31. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the common channel is a cell broadcast channel of a GSM-type communications system.

32. (currently amended) A mobile station for receiving information in a cellular telecommunications system, the mobile station comprising:

means for receiving an encrypted message broadcast on a common channel of a cell of the cellular telecommunications system;

means responsive to receipt of a transfer protocol identifier indicating that the broadcast message is of a type for data download to a removable module from the mobile station and configured ~~arranged~~ to pass said encrypted broadcast message to a the removable module, said removable module comprising a memory for storing a decryption function arranged to use a decryption key ~~common to at least one other such mobile station~~; and

display means for displaying the message, when decrypted, to a user, wherein, in response to receipt of said encrypted broadcast message, the removable module decrypts said encrypted broadcast message using said ~~common~~ decryption key, and the display means displays the decrypted message to the user.

33. (previously presented) The mobile station according to Claim 32, wherein the removable module is a subscriber identity module.

34. (previously presented) The mobile station according to Claim 32, wherein the decryption function comprises an application program for performing the decryption and for controlling the display of the message on the mobile station.

35. (previously presented) The mobile station according to Claim 32, wherein the mobile station is configured to operate in accordance with GSM Phase 2+.

36. (previously presented) The mobile station according to Claim 32, wherein the mobile station is configured to operate as a cellular mobile telephone.

37. (currently amended) A mobile station for receiving information in a cellular telecommunications system, the mobile station comprising:

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a receiver unit configured to receive an encrypted message broadcast on a common channel of a cell of the cellular telecommunications system;

a processor responsive to receipt of a transfer protocol identifier indicating that the broadcast message is of a type for data download to a removable module from the mobile station;

a display to display the message, when decrypted, to a user; and

a removable module comprising a memory for storing a decryption function arranged to use a decryption key ~~common to at least one other such mobile station~~, wherein in response to receipt of said encrypted broadcast message, the processor passes the message to the removable module, wherein the removable module decrypts said encrypted broadcast message using said ~~common~~ decryption key, and wherein the mobile station displays the decrypted message to the user.